

**Constitution and Bylaws of the  
Virginia Resource – Use Education Council**  
P. O. Box 11104, Richmond, Virginia 23230 – 1104

**ARTICLE I            NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the **Virginia Resource – Use Education Council**.

**ARTICLE II            DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES**

The **Virginia Resource – Use Education Council** is a voluntary, non-profit, educational organization which subscribes to the principles:

- A. That the natural resources of the state and nation should be used wisely and with due consideration for the future.
- B. That the wise use of these resources should be the concern of government at the local, state, and national levels.
- C. That all people benefit from the natural resources of the state and nation: hence, they have citizenship responsibility in the safeguarding and judicious utilization of these resources.
- D. That all citizens, public or private groups, charged with the management of natural resources or education or both, have added responsibilities in promoting understanding of conservation needs problems and ways to resolve them.

**ARTICLE III            PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION**

The purpose of the Council is to assist in conservation education. It shall be the further purpose of the Council to assist in Projects aimed at coordinating conservation education activities.

**ARTICLE IV            MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the Council shall be composed of no more than two representatives of state and federal natural resource agencies, nonprofit natural resource organizations, the State Department of Education, and institutions of higher learning which are concerned with conservation education. Prospective member agencies and organizations shall be nominated by a member of the Council. Election to membership shall be by majority vote of members present at a regular meeting.

**ARTICLE V            OFFICERS**

The officers of the Council shall consist of a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary and treasurer. The chairman shall be the executive officer of the council.

Terms of office shall be for a period of two years and run concurrently. These officers together with the immediate past chairman shall constitute the executive committee of the council.

The duties of these officers shall be those usually associated with the offices.

**ARTICLE VI            MEETINGS**

There shall be a minimum of one regular meeting a year. The executive committee shall meet as needed during the year and keep agency representatives informed of the Council's actions after each meeting.

Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the executive committee.

**ARTICLE VII                        ELECTIONS AND BUSINESS PROCEDURES**

Forty percent of the Council members shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote of those Council members present shall be necessary to elect or pass a motion.

Parliamentary procedures shall be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order.

**ARTICLE VIII            ADMENDMENTS**

The constitution and bylaws of the Council may be amended at any regular meeting provided that all Council members are notified of the proposed amendment at least 30 days prior to the planned action.

**Virginia Resource-Use Education Council  
BYLAWS**

**SECTION I            FINANCES**

- A. No annual dues shall be required of members.
- B. The council may accept voluntary contributions for its conservation education program.
- C. The treasurer is responsible for the receipt and disbursement of funds as authorized by the council. He shall be bonded for \$10,000 or more as authorized by the Council and his accounts shall be audited annually by an audit committee appointed by the Chairman or in the discretion of the Council, the audit may be made by a certified public accountant.
- D. The fiscal year shall be September 1 through August 31.

**SECTION II           COMMITTEES**

The chairman may appoint committees to assist in carrying out the work of the Council.

**SECTION III          DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the dissolution of the Council by majority action of the members, or the inactivity of the Council as indicated by the absence of meetings or other activities in a period in excess of one year, the last elected treasurer shall be responsible for the payment, from funds remaining in the Council Treasury, of all just indebtedness of the Council and, further, shall within the year following, divide the remaining funds in a manner determined by a majority vote of the remaining members to be used for conservation education in the Commonwealth of Virginia .

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Constitution and Bylaws, except Section III of Bylaws, adopted January 25,1960. Section III of bylaws adopted September 26, 1961. Revised January 1962. Discussed 12/1998, 1/2000 Voted on 1/11/2002

Virginia Resource – Use Education Council  
P. O. Box 11104, Richmond, Virginia 23230 – 1104  
**Membership Policy**

In accordance with the present constitution of the Council, Article IV entitled *Membership* states;

**Membership in the Council shall be composed of no more than two representatives of state and federal natural resource agencies, nonprofit natural resource organizations, the State Department of Education, and institutions of higher learning which are concerned with conservation education. Prospective member agencies and organizations shall be nominated by a member of the Council. Election to membership shall be by majority vote of members present at a regular meeting.**

Four memberships will be recognized and lists thereof maintained.  
They are:

- **Regular** Representative of an agency or institution involved with conservation of Virginia’s resources. Active status with full voting privileges and attendance obligations. No more than 20% of the total Council membership shall be made up of nonprofit organizations.
- **Associate** Includes all past active or fully retired regular Council members. They have no voting privileges and no attendance obligations. Attend meetings when able. They are encouraged to take part in meetings and activities.
  
- **Honorary** Performance of outstanding merit to the Virginia Resource – Use Education Council. A former regular or associate member of the Council with a record of outstanding service to the conservation of Virginia’s resources. A non-council person of similar service and background can also be recognized. Past membership in Council is unnecessary. Nominated only by a majority vote of Council members at regularly scheduled meetings. Full voting privileges with no attendance obligations.
- **Prospective** Good candidates for possible membership. Council objective to distribute membership to maximum number of resource conservation agencies or institutions. Sponsor responsible for prospective member’s attendance.

Prospective member’s name shall be introduced to Council during a regular meeting prior to the prospect’s first attended meeting. With Council’s approval, the Membership Chairman shall send the prospect an official invitation through the sponsor. The sponsor is responsible to see that the prospect is properly introduced to Council and attends two Council business meetings within a two year period. This procedure will help ensure attendance by prospective members at planned meetings until a decision is made by Council as to membership status. The sponsor plays an important role in the future of the Council.

The Council will then vote on prospective members following their attendance to two Council meetings within the two year period. A majority vote on those Council members present will elect prospective members as stated in the Constitution. With knowledge by Membership Chairman to help coordinate agency representation, any Council member can nominate a prospective member, but attendance at two Council meetings is necessary before voting to full membership.

Members may be elected to honorary membership by majority vote of those members at a regularly scheduled Council business meeting.

Council members missing three consecutive business meetings will receive a letter asking if they wish to continue membership in the Council. A positive reply from the member will automatically reinstate him. Upon receipt of a negative or no reply, the member will be dropped from the Council roles. Reinstatement will follow when member attends two meetings within a two year period.

Sometimes unavoidable conflicts occur, making it impossible to attend a Council meeting. Should this happen, the membership Chairman, or any member, shall be notified prior to meeting so that this absence will not be counted toward dismissal.

Revised 3/1984  
Adopted 9/1984  
Revised 1/2000  
Adopted 2002